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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. During a three-week course for ideological training of leaders, which took place in Szczecin between 27 July and 14 August 1954, one of the subjects was the problem of religious practices by Party members.
2. The lecturer presented this problem in the following manner: It is no one's fault if he happens to be a Catholic, but the observance of religious practices by individual Party members is an entirely different matter. The principles proclaimed by the Church and the policy of the Roman Church are contrary to the slogans and principles of the Party. Therefore, every enlightened member of the Party, despite his being a Catholic, should not go to, or support, the Church. If he does so, it means that either he is politically immature, or that his Party allegiance springs not from conviction but from opportunist motives.
3. When asked what should be done about such members, the speaker said: Party members should never be openly interfered with in their observance of religious practices, and they should never be persecuted on that score, as this creates a very bad impression. They should be constantly enlightened and persuaded that their behavior is in conflict with the principles of the Party. Such enlightenment may not take place at public meetings or during collective ideological training. The subject must never be broached in public. The enlightenment must take place exclusively through personal conversations between the person responsible for ideological training and the Party member concerned; no undue pressure should be resorted to.
4. The speaker further stated : Should the Party member stubbornly adhere to his ideas despite prolonged enlightenment and persuasion and should he fail to abandon his religious practices, then he will have to choose between the Party and the Church. Should he choose the Church, then he must be removed from the Party, as he cannot be a full member of the Party. When removing a member from the Party, it must never be stated that the reason lay in the religious beliefs

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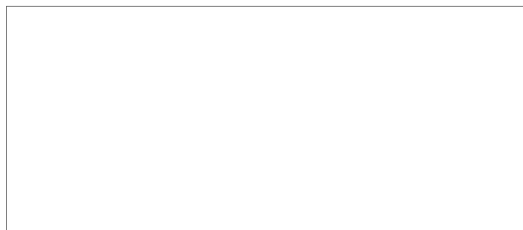
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of that person. Sufficient reasons can always be found for the removal of a person from the Party, reasons which are not likely to cause uneasiness among other members.

5. When discussing these points, the speaker stated that Party authorities are well aware of the fact that this problem will remain topical for a very long time and that very much effort will be needed to eradicate Catholicism from the Party.



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